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**MAY 29 2006**

[PATENT]  
BEFORE THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial Number:10/693122  
Filed:10/24/2003  
Art Unit:3732  
Today's Date: May 29, 2006

Examiner:Macpherson  
Atty Dkt:HILLIARD03/01  
Due Date:03/28/2006

**Response to First Office Action**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent Office  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

In Response to the Office Action dated 12/28/2005 in the above matter, please consider the amendment, comment, and argument below:

**AMENDMENT**

**Amendment to the Specification (abstract)** begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

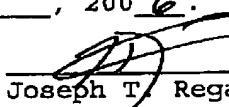
**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 12 of this paper.

**PLEASE NOTE**

A request for a TWO MONTH Extension of Time with fee payment was filed with the present papers, effectively extending the deadline for Response in the present case to 05/29/2006.

**CERTIFICATE OF FAXING**

I **HEREBY CERTIFY** that the present document was faxed to the Commissioner for Patents, Central fax number 571-273-8300, this 29 day of MAY, 2006.

  
Joseph T. Regard (PTO Reg 34,907)